

Existing law establishes the Atchafalaya Basin Program in the Dept. of Natural Resources to serve as the authority on behalf of the state to work in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other public entities to coordinate state and local activities in developing and implementing the federally sponsored and funded Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.

Existing law provides definitions as follows:

- (1) "Atchafalaya Basin" means the area located within the guide levees of the Atchafalaya Basin and those areas directly adjacent to the levees, bounded on the north by U.S. Hwy. 190 and on the south by Morgan City, and as defined in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.
- (2) "Board" means the Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board.
- (3) "Committee" means the Atchafalaya Basin Advisory Committee.
- (4) "Department" means the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (5) "Program" means the Atchafalaya Basin Program.
- (6) "State master plan" means the plan developed by the state in accordance with the federal Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project pursuant to Public Laws 99-88 and 99-662.

Prior law, relative to the duties of the program, provided that the program shall do certain things including the following:

- (1) Develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.
- (2) Coordinate state implementation of congressional mandates concerning the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.
- (3) Serve as primary liaison on behalf of the state with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project, including representation of the state in state/federal partnerships, cost/share agreements, and other public and private cooperative endeavors.
- (4) Represent the policy and consensus viewpoint of the state at the federal, regional, state, and local levels with respect to the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.
- (5) Enter into partnerships, memorandums of understanding, and cooperative endeavors with state agencies and departments and other parties to implement the state master plan.
- (6) Provide recommendations to the legislature and congress with respect to the implementation, management, and funding of the state master plan.
- (7) Expend funds consistent with the purposes of the program.
- (8) Seek, accept, and use, in accordance with law, gifts, grants, bequests, and endowments, including real property, and take such actions as are

necessary to comply with and conditions required for such acceptance.

- (9) Prepare future operating and capital budgets in accordance with the normal budgeting process.

New law retains such requirements of prior law but further authorizes the program to do certain things including the following:

- (1) Acquire 1500 acres in the Atchafalaya Basin.
- (2) Conduct environmental easement monitoring.
- (3) Enter into certain cooperative endeavors to implement the state master plan including four such agreements with the Corps of Engineers.
- (4) Prepare and submit annual operating and capital outlay budget requests.

New law provides for an authorized capital improvement program and provides for the projects authorized for the program and a proposed schedule of funding. Provision is made for inclusion of additional projects to be included after review, study, and analysis as requested by concurrent resolution of the legislature.

New law provides for an estimated 15-year operation and maintenance plan and provides for a proposed allocation between various departments and purposes and provides a proposed schedule of funding.

New law provides that state funds for the capital improvement program are estimated to be \$30 million to be appropriated over a nine-year period. Provides for \$55 million of state funds to be expended for operation and maintenance over a 15-year period.

Provides that in the event funds available to the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries in the 1999-2000 FY are not sufficient to meet its funding commitments, the necessary allocation shall be reduced for that fiscal year; however, the reduction shall not reduce the total cost allocation to the department over the 15-year period.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 6, 1999).

(Amends R.S. 30:2000.4; Adds R.S. 30:2000.9 and 2000.10)